

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-12 are requested to be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2, 3 and 6 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2, 3, 6 and 13 are now pending in this application.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claim 13 has been allowed and that claims 2, 3 and 6 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten these claims accordingly.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The cancellation of these claims renders the prior art rejections moot.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

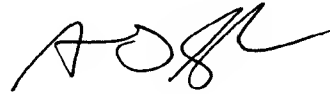
Certified copies of the priority documents will be submitted in due course.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge, in the next official action, Applicant's Information Disclosure statement filed on November 9, 2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date JUNE 28, 2004



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